

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD SUMMARY

Monday, March 18, 2002

SENATE

Measures Introduced:

_____ **S. 2025.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of special pension for recipients of the Medal of Honor and to make that special pension effective from the date of the act for which the recipient is awarded the Medal of Honor and *to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the criminal penalties associated with misuse or fraud relating to the Medal of Honor*; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Hutchinson

Page S 2007, S 2009

H.R. 2356 - Campaign Finance Reform:

_____ *Senate began consideration of H.R. 2356, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide bipartisan campaign reform.*

Pages S 1991-95, S 2002, D 249

_____ A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a cloture vote will occur on Wednesday, March 20, 2002.

Pages S 2002, D 249

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 10 a.m., on Tuesday, March 19, 2002.

Pages S 2016, D 249

Nominations Confirmed:

Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Randy Crane, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Don Slazinik, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois for the term of four years.

Kim Richard Widup, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Illinois for the term of four years.

Pages S 2002, S 2016, D 249

Executive Communication:

_____ **EC-5746.** A communication from the Assistant Director, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inmate Financial Responsibility Program: Spending Limitations" ((RIN1120-AA49)(64 FR 72798)) received on March 14, 2002; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Page S 2006

Committee Meetings:

Committee on Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services held hearings to examine proposed legislation to give federal agencies new management tools to handle recruitment and retention of skilled federal employees, in order to avoid a human capital crisis which may be brought by large-scale retirements expected in the near future, including S. 1603, to provide for reform relating to Federal employment, and S. 1612, to provide Federal managers with tools and flexibility in areas such as personnel, budgeting, property management and disposal. Hearings continue tomorrow.

Page D 250

Committee Meetings for Tuesday, March 19, 2002:

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: @ 9:30 a.m. To resume oversight hearings to examine accounting and investor protection issues raised by the fall of the Enron Corporation and by other public companies. SD- 538.

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Committee on Governmental Affairs: @ 10:00 a.m. Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services, to continue hearings on Federal workplace reform proposals. SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: @ 10:00 a.m. To hold hearings on the nominations of:
Terrence L. O'Brian, of Wyoming, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit;
Lance M. Africk, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana;
Paul G. Cassell, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah; and
Legrome D. Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

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Remarks:

Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002. (H.R. 2356)

"...The political parties have pocketed more than \$3.5 million in unregulated, unlimited soft money from Enron since 1991. Congress has moved forward with the investigations into Enron's conduct, despite the potential conflict of interest the political contributions might pose. The reality is that this is all too familiar territory for Congress. Every day Members of Congress accept huge campaign contributions with one hand and vote on issues affecting their contributors with the other. And, every day the public naturally questions whether their Representatives are giving special treatment to the wealthy interests that fund their campaigns and bankroll their political parties. The Enron scandal, and all the soft money scandals that have come before, illustrate the permanent conflict of interest--the permanent conflict of interest--that unlimited soft money contributions to the parties have created for elected officials in the Capitol and at the White House. Both parties have gladly accepted Enron's soft money contributions over the years, and now those contributions are compromising our ability to address the Enron collapse, and countless other issues that come before the Congress..."

Feingold

Page S 1991-7

Remarks (Cont'd):

Opposition to the Section 245(i) Provision and Amnesty for Illegal Aliens.

"...The section 245(i) provision poses a dangerous risk to our border security by compromising the all-important State Department background checks being conducted on potential immigrants in their home countries. By allowing hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens to apply for permanent residency in our country, section 245(i) allows them to sidestep face-to-face interviews at U.S. consulates in their own countries. U.S. consular officers abroad offer unmatched expertise in their host country's social conditions. They are knowledgeable of police records. They are knowledgeable of fraudulent document operations. They are knowledgeable of political extremist groups. Under section 245(i), U.S. consulate officers would not fully exercise this expertise in screening immigrants for permanent residency..."

Byrd

Pages S 1987-8

Nomination of Randy Crane to be United States District Judge.

"...We are voting on our 42nd judicial nominee to be confirmed since last July when the Senate Judiciary Committee reorganized after the Senator majority changed. With the confirmation of Robert Randall Crane to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas--and I predict we will accept him--the Senate will have resolved 7 judicial emergencies since we returned to session a few short weeks ago, 14 judicial emergencies since I became chairman. As of this week, the Senate has confirmed more judges in the last 9 months than were confirmed in 4 out of 6 years under the Republican leadership. [] I feel I must set the record straight. The Democratic members of the committee have never inquired into Judge Pickering's religion. It had no place in the deliberations. These charges, that the Democratic Senators on the committee have voted against Judge Pickering based in any way based on his religion are outrageous, unfounded, and untrue. Whether a nominee goes to church, temple, or mosque, or not, has not been used by anyone in this Senate in the consideration of a judicial or any nominee. [] By moving first on the nonideological and well qualified of President Bush's nominees we can fill the most vacancies in the least amount of time. With controversial, less qualified judges we spend much more of time. With consensus, well-qualified nominees we could have confirmed a dozen judges in the same amount of time the committee devoted over the last 5 months to the Pickering nomination..."

Leahy

Pages S 1998-2001

"...I rise to support the nomination of Robert Randall Crane to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. I have had the pleasure of reviewing Mr. Crane's distinguished legal career, and I have come to the conclusion that he is a fine lawyer who will add a great deal to the federal bench in Texas. [] I must take a moment to respond to some of the comments made by my colleague, the distinguished Senator from Vermont, regarding the pace of judicial confirmations. The Senator has made much of comparing the pace of confirmations under Republican and Democratic control of the Judiciary Committee. This has involved comparing 9 months to 12 months, 9 months to 9 months, 3 months to 3 months, and so on. Of course, anyone knows that you can manipulate statistics to achieve the result you want. I find the bottom line numbers to tell a more compelling story. And the bottom line is that we have 94 vacancies in the Federal judiciary today--the exact same number as we did at the end of last session, and only slightly fewer than we did when the Democrats took control of the Senate in June of last year..."

Hatch

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HOUSE

Measures Introduced:

H.R. 3983. A bill *to ensure the security of maritime transportation in the United States against acts of terrorism*, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Young

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H.R. 3985. A bill to amend the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the leasing of restricted Indian lands for public, religious, educational, recreational, residential, business, and other purposes requiring the grant of long-term leases,” approved August 9, 1955, *to provide for binding arbitration clauses in leases and contracts related to reservation lands of the Gila River Indian Community*; to the Committee on Resources.

Hayworth

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Reports Filed:

H. Con. Res. 353, filed on Friday, March 16; establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2003 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007 (**House Report 107-376**); Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

H.R. 2804. *To designate the United States courthouse located at 95 Seventh Street in San Francisco, California, as the “James R. Browning United States Courthouse” (House Report 107-378); Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Referred to the House Calendar.*

H.R. 3925. To establish an exchange program between the Federal Government and the private sector in order to promote the development of expertise in information technology management, amended (**House Report 107-379**). Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and Ways and Means for a period ending not later than March 19, 2002, for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of those committees pursuant to clause 1(k) and (s), rule X. (Rept. 107-379, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Pages H 936-37, D 250

Executive Communication:

EC-5938. A letter from the Director, Congressional Budget Office, transmitting the report to waive deduction of pay requirement for a re-employed annuitant; to the Committee on Government Reform.

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Committee Meetings for Tuesday, March 19, 2002:

Committee on the Judiciary: @ 4:00 p.m. Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, oversight hearing on “The INS March 2002 Notification of Approval of Change of Status for Pilot Training for Terrorist Hijackers Mohammed Atta and Marwan Al-Shehhi.” 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules: @ 5:00 p.m. To consider **H. Con. Res. 353**, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2003 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007. H-313 Capitol.

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Next SENATE MEETING: Tuesday, 10:00 a.m., March 19, 2002.

Next HOUSE MEETING: Tuesday, 12:30 p.m., March 19, 2002.

OLA: S. Schwarz, A. Santos